

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn) Wheel chair tire having a carcass (8) with a running profile (10, 10') applied to its exterior side and optionally having a raised lettering,

wherein, at least on an exterior tire wall, starting from a region adjoining later with a rim edge, to at least a first boundary plane (13) extending through a center of a tire cavity, the carcass (8) is constructed to be smooth and free of profiles and lettering, an intersection point (14) of the first boundary plane (13) on the tire extending maximally offset by an angle ( $\beta$ ) of  $45^\circ$  with respect to an intersection point (15) of a center plane (11) with the tire (7).

2. (withdrawn) Wheelchair tire according to Claim 1,  
wherein the running profile (10) is constructed asymmetrically with respect to the center plane (11).

3. (withdrawn) Wheelchair tire according to Claim 1,  
wherein the running profile (10') is arranged laterally offset with respect to the center plane (11).

4. (withdrawn) Wheelchair tire according to Claim 3,  
wherein the angle ( $\alpha$ ) of the offset of the center plane (17) of the profile (10') corresponds to the camber of the wheel arrangement.

5. (withdrawn) Wheelchair tire according to Claim 1,  
wherein the profile elevations of the running profile (10, 10') are bounded toward the smooth exterior wall of the carcass (8) by a second boundary plane (16) which extends parallel to the center plane (11) and through the intersection point (14) of the first boundary plane (13) with the tire (7).

6. (withdrawn) Wheelchair tire according to Claim 1,  
wherein an exterior tire wall is provided with a low-friction, optionally also slidable coating (19).

7. (previously presented) Wheelchair tire comprising:  
a tire carcass, and  
a running profile extending annularly around the carcass,  
wherein the running profile is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon.

8. (currently amended) Wheelchair tire comprising: according to claim 7,  
a tire carcass, and  
a running profile extending annularly around the carcass,

wherein the running profile is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon,

wherein the running profile is symmetrically configured and arranged laterally offset with respect to the center plane by a predetermined offset angle.

9. (original) Wheelchair tire according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined offset angle corresponds to a wheel camber of a wheelchair wheel.

10. (original) Wheelchair tire according to claim 9, wherein said offset angle is between 9° and 16°.

11. (original) Wheelchair tire according to claim 7, wherein the running profile is asymmetrically configured with respect to the tire carcass center plane.

12. (currently amended) Wheelchair tire comprising: according to claim 7,  
a tire carcass,

a running profile extending annularly around the carcass, wherein the running profile is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be

smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon, and

~~comprising~~ a low friction coating on the portions configured to be smooth.

13. (original) Wheelchair tire according to claim 8, comprising a low friction coating on the portions configured to be smooth.

14. (previously presented) Wheelchair assembly comprising:  
a wheelchair seat for a wheelchair occupant, and a pair of wheels disposed at lateral sides of the seat and being manually rotatable by the wheel chair occupant,

wherein each wheel includes a rim surrounded by a tire, each tire having a tire carcass surrounded by a running profile, and

wherein the running profile of each of the tires is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon.

15. (original) Wheelchair assembly according to claim 14, wherein said wheels are mounted with a predetermined camber of between 9° and 16°.

16. (currently amended) Wheelchair assembly ~~according to claim 14,~~  
comprising:

a wheelchair seat for a wheelchair occupant, and a pair of wheels disposed  
at lateral sides of the seat and being manually rotatable by the wheel chair  
occupant,

wherein each wheel includes a rim surrounded by a tire, each tire having a  
tire carcass surrounded by a running profile,

wherein the running profile of each of the tires is asymmetrically disposed  
with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the  
running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in  
use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair  
occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted  
thereon, and

wherein the running profile of each tire is symmetrically configured and  
arranged laterally offset with respect to the tire center plane by a predetermined  
offset angle.

17. (original) Wheelchair assembly according to claim 15, wherein the  
running profile of each tire is symmetrically configured and arranged laterally  
offset with respect to the tire center plane by a predetermined offset angle; said  
predetermined offset angle corresponding to a predetermined camber of the  
respective wheel.

18. (original) Wheelchair assembly according to claim 14, wherein the running profile of each tire is asymmetrically configured with respect to the associated tire carcass center plane.

19. (original) Wheelchair assembly according to claim 15, wherein the running profile of each tire is asymmetrically configured with respect to the associate tire carcass center plane.

20. (currently amended) Wheelchair assembly ~~according to claim 14,~~  
comprising:

a wheelchair seat for a wheelchair occupant, and a pair of wheels disposed at lateral sides of the seat and being manually rotatable by the wheel chair occupant,

wherein each wheel includes a rim surrounded by a tire, each tire having a tire carcass surrounded by a running profile,

wherein the running profile of each of the tires is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon, and

wherein each tire is provided with a low friction coating on the portions configured to be smooth.

21. (original) Wheelchair assembly according to claim 14, wherein each wheel includes a driving ring manually engageable by the wheelchair occupant to drive the wheel.

22. (new) Wheelchair tire comprising:

a tire carcass, and

a running profile extending annularly around the carcass,

wherein the running profile is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon, and a center of a ground contact area of the tire is substantially aligned with a center of the asymmetric running profile.

23. (new) Wheelchair assembly comprising:

a wheelchair seat for a wheelchair occupant, and a pair of wheels disposed at lateral sides of the seat and being manually rotatable by the wheel chair occupant,

wherein each wheel includes a rim surrounded by a tire, each tire having a tire carcass surrounded by a running profile, and

wherein the running profile of each of the tires is asymmetrically disposed with respect to a tire carcass center plane with portions of at least one of the running profile and carcass disposed laterally outward of a wheel chair in an in use position being configured to be smooth so as to limit chafing of a wheel chair occupant's hands when manually rotating a wheel with said tire mounted thereon, and a center of a ground contact area of the tire is substantially aligned with a center of the asymmetric running profile.